

Education and Public Outreach at CU's Center for Astrobiology

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The CU Center for Astrobiology provides a series of education and outreach programs focused on bringing our research to the public. The hallmark of our program is the professional development workshops for print and broadcast journalists. These workshops, run annually, bring journalists and astrobiologists together for a 2-3 day intensive interaction. In August of 2005, the workshop will be held at Yellowstone National Park and will focus on "Life in Extreme Environments".

In addition, we sponsor public symposia to bring the excitement of astrobiology to the general public, including at colleges are attended by historically underrepresented groups. Our annual public symposium generally attracts 500-600 people to listen to nationally recognized astrobiologists. This year's theme is "*Astrobiology and Cosmology, Science and Religion: Our Place in the Universe*".

Our partner, Colorado MESA, works with us to develop after school programming and activities in Astrobiology. With their focus on underserved and underrepresented students, Colorado MESA works with us to use Astrobiology as an integrative format for science education. Finally, we offer undergraduate and graduate courses and a graduate certificate in astrobiology, working to develop astrobiology's next generation.